Hal's copy to H. Livingstone

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Hal Verb
P.O. Box 421815
San Francisco, CA. 94142-1815

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Kennedy Assassination Chronicles,
Attn = Senior Editor, Robert Chapman,
6797 Satinwood Cove,
Memphis, TN.

Dear Robert =

I wish to call your attention to a photograph described as "detail from the Zapruder frame 260" which appears on page 15 of my article, "Another Look at the Shot Sequence", Summer, 2001 of the "Kennedy Assassination Chronicles".

The frame apparently was chosen by whoever edited my article (I did not select this particular Zapruder frame & in fact, never mentioned Zapruder frame 260 anywhere in the article).

Even though the caption citing Z-260 states that "the President is grasping towards his neck while many bystanders believe he is 'playing' or ducking", utilizing Z-260 is misleading because the entire thrust of my article was that this "playing" or ducking was a crowd reaction to the very first shot which I claimed was at Z-189. By frame Z-260 I would contend that at least 3 shots were fired (at frames Z-189 - Kennedy struck in the neck; at Z-225 - Kennedy struck in the back from behind and, at Z-236 - the Connally hit is the back from behind).

As a partial proof on my argument that at Z-260 Kennedy & Connally were seriously ~~was~~ wounded by 3 shots refer to the famous Altgens photograph showing Mrs Kennedy extending her ~~arm~~ arm to aid her husband President Kennedy. (I should note here that the Warren Commission - trying as hard as it could - ~~was~~ was eager to get Altgens to state that his famous photo was taken just after the first shot in attempt to place the Altgens position well before Zapruder frame 255. The attempt failed even though Altgens was not entirely aware of what was being done to him. Moving Z-255 to a much lower frame would allow the Warren Commission to show that three - and only three - shots were fired - It was a dilemma that no member of the Warren Commission even considered and is one of the reasons Specter's famous "magic bullet" had to be advanced not as a theory but as a necessity).

To emphasize the thrust of my article the crowd reaction using such phrases as noted ~~used~~ in my analysis which included "some kind of game"; "laughing"; "acting and playing around"; "make jokes"; "played a prank"; "a practiced action" and finally, "ducking" refer to Z-frames from Z-189 up to and including Z-frame 207 (thereafter on the Z-film President Kennedy is hidden from our view between frames Z-~~2~~208 up to and through frame Z-224. At frame Z-225 where Kennedy finally emerges from the Stemmons sign which blocked our view Kennedy is very visibly wounded and in great distress). By frame Z-255 (at which the Altgens photo was taken) it cannot be forcefully argued that the crowd was "laughing" ~~this~~ as your photo Z-260 indicates. No - the

Crowd's reaction was anywhere between Z-frames 189 up to and including frame 224 which allows about 1.9 seconds for this phenomenon to occur. After Z-frame 225 - when 3 shots were already fired - it became "no laughing matter" since the witnesses to the assassination recognized the horrendous event unfolding before their eyes and obviously were in no mood to "laugh".

One final note which I wish to add to my thesis that the first shot striking Kennedy can be gleaned from the testimony of Victoria Adams who heard and witnessed the assassination from the fourth floor window of the Depository Building. Interviewed by Commission member David Belin (see WC Volume 6, P. 388) she related the following:

ADAMS: "- - - then we heard - then we were obstructed from the view." (A fairly obvious reference to the tree blocking a potential assassin's view from the sixth floor. Hal Verb's note).

BELIN: "By what?"

ADAMS: "A tree. And we heard a shot and it was a pause, and then a ~~third shot~~ second shot, and then a third shot.

"It sounded like a firecracker or a cannon at a football game, it seemed as if it came from the right below (my emphasis) rather than from the left above. Possibly because of the report - -"

What Adams had to say was corroborated by another witness, Dorothy Cenn Garner, who was also present at the fourth floor window with Adams. An FBI report of March 20, 1964 which appears in Warren Commission Volume #22 on page 648 states: " At the time of the shots,

the presidential car was out of view behind a tree (my emphasis) — I thought at the time the shots or reports from a point the west of the building" (again, my emphasis).

Can there now be any doubt at all that the first shot did strike Kennedy and at the Zapruder frame I've suggested — Z-189?? !!

Yours truly,
Hal Verb